BEFORE THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

| In the Matter of the Accusation Against: |))) |
|---|--------------------------|
| Ramon Castellon Gonzalez, P.A. | Case No. 950-2020-002730 |
| Physician Assistant License No. PA 20804 |))) |
| Respondent | ,)) |

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Physician Assistant Board, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on <u>March 28, 2023.</u>

IT IS SO ORDERED March 21, 2023

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD

Rozana Khan

Executive Officer

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| 1 | ROB BONTA | | |
| 2 | Attorney General of California ROBERT MCKIM BELL Supervision Departs Attached Control | | |
| 3 | Supervising Deputy Attorney General VLADIMIR SHALKEVICH | | |
| 4 | Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 173955 | | |
| 5 | 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, California 90013 | | |
| 6 | Telephone: (213) 269-6538 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117 Attorneys for Complainant | | |
| 7 | Autorneys for Complainant | | |
| 8 | BEFORI | | |
| 9 | PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS | | |
| 10 | STATE OF CA | ALIFORNIA | |
| 11 | | | |
| 12 | In the Matter of the Accusation Against: | Case No. 950-2020-002730 | |
| 13 | RAMON CASTELLON GONZALEZ, P.A. | OAH No. 2022090060 | |
| 14 | 11243 Muller Street Downey, California 90241 | STIPULATED SURRENDER OF LICENSE AND ORDER | |
| 15 | Physician Assistant License No. PA 20804, | | |
| 16 | Respondent. | | |
| 17 | | | |
| 18 | | REED by and between the parties to the above | |
| 19 | entitled proceedings that the following matters are | | |
| 20 | PART (C) 11 AND TO | | |
| 21 | | ecutive Officer of the Physician Assistant | |
| 22 | Board (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this | | |
| 23 | matter by Rob Bonta, Attorney General of the State of California, by Vladimir Shalkevich, | | |
| 24 | Deputy Attorney General. | | |
| 25 | | pondent) is represented in this proceeding by | |
| 26 | attorney Edward O. Lear, whose address is: 5200 Angeles, California 90045. | west Century Boulevard, Suite 345, Los | |
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3. On January 28, 2010, the Board issued Physician Assistant License No. PA 20804 to Ramon Castellon Gonzalez, P.A. (Respondent). That license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 950-2020-002730 and will expire on May 31, 2023, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 950-2020-002730 was filed before the Board and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on April 26, 2022. Respondent filed a timely Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 950-2020-002730 is attached as Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 950-2020-002730. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including his right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; his right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; his right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; his right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; his right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

 Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 950-2020-002730, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician Assistant License.

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- 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline. Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest that cause for discipline exists based on those charges.
- 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician Assistant License without further process.

CONTINGENCY

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and surrender, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Physician Assistant License No. PA 20804, issued to Respondent Ramon Castellon Gonzalez, P.A., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician Assistant License and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent.

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This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.

- Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician Assistant in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 950-2020-002730 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- Respondent shall pay the agency its costs of investigation and enforcement in the amount of \$17,966.50 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license.
- 6. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation, No. 950-2020-002730 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Edward O. Lear. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician Assistant License. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Physician Assistant Board.

3/10/2023

RAMON CASTELLO

Respondent

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|----------|---|
| 1 | I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Ramon Castellon Gonzalez, P.A. the term |
| 2 | and conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I |
| 3 | approve its form and content. |
| 4 | DATED: 5/8/25 |
| 5 | EDWARD O. LEAR/ Attorney for Respondent |
| 6 | FNTODSEMENT |
| 7 | ENDORSEMENT The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted |
| 8 | for consideration by the Physician Assistant Board of the Department of Consumer Affairs. |
| 9 | 16 10 222 |
| 10 | DATED: March 9, 2023 Respectfully submitted, |
| 11 | ROB BONTA Attorney General of California |
| 12 | ROBERT MCKIM BELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General |
| 13 | Bectronically signed |
| 14 | Vladimir Shalkevich |
| 15 | Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant |
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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 950-2020-002730

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| 1 | ROB BONTA | | |
| 2 | Attorney General of California ROBERT MCKIM BELL | | |
| 3 | Supervising Deputy Attorney General VLADIMIR SHALKEVICH | | |
| 4 | Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 173955 | | |
| 5 | 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 | | |
| 6 | Telephone: (213) 269-6538 Facsimile: (916) 731-2117 | | |
| 7 | Attorneys for Complainant | | |
| 8 | BEFOR | E THE | |
| 9 | PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS | | |
| 10 | STATE OF C. | | |
| 11 | | | |
| 12 | In the Matter of the Accusation Against: | Case No. 950-2020-002730 | |
| 13 | RAMON CASTELLON GONZALEZ, P.A. | | |
| 14 | Downey, California 90241 | | |
| 15 | Physician Assistant License No. PA 20804, | | |
| 16 | Respondent. | | |
| 17 | PART | j Pips | |
| 18 | | his Accusation solely in her official capacity as | |
| 19 | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| 20 | the Executive Officer of the Physician Assistant I | | |
| 21 | • | d Physician Assistant License Number PA | |
| 22 | 20804 to Ramon Castellon Gonzalez, P.A. (Respondent). That license was in full force and effect | | |
| 23 | at all times relevant to the charges brought herein | and will expire on May 31, 2023, unless | |
| 24 | renewed. | | |
| 25 | JURISD | <u>ICTION</u> | |
| 26 | 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the following | | |
| 27 | laws. All section references are to the Business a | and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise | |
| 28 | indicated. | | |
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Section 3527 of the Code states:

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- (a) The board may order the denial of an application for, or the issuance subject to terms and conditions of, or the suspension or revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon a PA license after a hearing as required in Section 3528 for unprofessional conduct that includes, but is not limited to, a violation of this chapter, a violation of the Medical Practice Act, or a violation of the regulations adopted by the board.
- (b) The board may order the denial of an application for, or the suspension or revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, an approved program after a hearing as required in Section 3528 for a violation of this chapter or the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.
- (c) The board may order the denial of the application for, or the suspension or revocation of, or the imposition of probationary conditions upon, a PA license, after a hearing as required in Section 3528 for unprofessional conduct that includes, except for good cause, the knowing failure of a licensee to protect patients by failing to follow infection control guidelines of the board, thereby risking transmission of bloodborne infectious diseases from licensee to patient, from patient to patient, and from patient to licensee. In administering this subdivision, the board shall consider referencing the standards, regulations, and guidelines of the State Department of Health developed pursuant to Section 1250.11 of the Health and Safety Code and the standards, regulations, and guidelines pursuant to the California Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973 (Part 1 (commencing with Section 6300) of Division 5 of the Labor Code) for preventing the transmission of HIV, hepatitis B, and other bloodborne pathogens in health care settings. As necessary, the board shall consult with the Medical Board of California, the Osteopathic Medical Board of California, the Podiatric Medical Board of California, the Dental Board of California, the Board of Registered Nursing, and the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians of the State of California to encourage appropriate consistency in the implementation of this subdivision.

The board shall seek to ensure that licensees are informed of the responsibility of licensees and others to follow infection control guidelines, and of the most recent scientifically recognized safeguards for minimizing the risk of transmission of bloodborne infectious diseases.

- (d) The board may order the licensee to pay the costs of monitoring the probationary conditions imposed on the license.
- (e) The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a PA license by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license.
- 5. Section 3528 of the Code states any proceedings involving the denial, suspension, or revocation of the application for licensure or the license of a PA or the application for approval or the approval of an approved program under this chapter shall be conducted in accordance with

filed with the California Secretary of State, indicates that Respondent, a Physician Assistant, owns 49% of MVP, Inc. stock, and Dr. Brian Payne, a physician licensed in California, owns 51% of MVP, Inc. stock. Respondent applied for a Fictitious Name Permit from the Medical Board of California, attesting that Dr. Payne owns 51% of the MVP, Inc.'s shares.

- 14. However, Dr. Payne's ownership of any part of MVP, Inc. is fictitious. When questioned, Dr. Payne explained that Respondent asked Dr. Payne, who was one of Respondent's preceptors during training, if Dr. Payne "would be interested in being his medical director because he wanted to open up a clinic in Downey." During an interview with Medical Board's investigators, Dr. Payne stated that he owns 51% of MVP, Inc. "by rule." When asked directly whether Respondent is the owner of the clinic, Dr. Payne stated: "Ray [Respondent] is the owner of the clinic."
- 15. Respondent is listed as the corporation's CEO, Secretary, and CFO on the corporate documents filed with the California Secretary of State. According to Dr. Payne, Respondent appoints all corporate officers at MVP, Inc. Dr. Payne invested no money in MVP, Inc., had no input into where the clinic was to be located, has no responsibilities in day-to-day operations of MVP, Inc., has no access to MVP, Inc.'s bank accounts, does not know how MVP, Inc.'s employees are paid, has no input into MVP, Inc.'s hiring of staff and does not know the employees' last names. Respondent is the holder of the lease for the premises of MVP, Inc. Dr. Payne has no input into how MVP, Inc. is advertised, that also being Respondent's responsibility. MVP, Inc.'s Internet advertising, before it was taken down during the investigation, prominently featured Respondent but provided no information whatsoever about Dr. Payne. Respondent's staff and patients refer to Respondent as "Doctor Ray" or "Doctor Gonzalez." Various Internet reviews advertising MVP, Inc., including purported patient reviews on Yelp.com, refer to Respondent as "Doctor Ray" or "Doctor Gonzalez" with no correction or clarification from Respondent.
- 16. Dr. Payne does not see any of the MVP, Inc.'s patients, but signs their charts as necessary for insurance purposes, or to comply with the Board's supervision requirements, during a weekly one-hour visit to MVP, Inc. Respondent, and not Dr. Payne, refers MVP, Inc.'s patients

to specialists, and Dr. Payne has never seen the practice's provider referral list. Dr. Payne did not select any of the laboratories used by MVP, Inc. to render patient care. Dr. Payne has no access to secure medicine and prescription pad storage at MVP, Inc., and is paid a small fixed stipend for acting as Respondent's supervisor and MVP, Inc.'s Medical Director.

17. When asked by the Medical Board's investigators whether he would expect to receive any proceeds from a potential sale of MVP, Inc., Dr. Payne stated: "I would not get anything out of it...because I haven't invested anything."

Patient M.L.

- 18. **Patient M.L.**, a professional boxer, presented to MVP, Inc. on or about February 10, 2020 for a physical examination and routine labs as required by the Nevada State Athletic Commission pursuant to M.L.'s application for a license to compete as a professional boxer in that state.
- 19. M.L. was seen at MVP, Inc. and examined by Respondent, though other than the Nevada Athletic Commission Forms and a laboratory report, no medical record of examination was made or retained by Respondent. At the completion of the examination, M.L. was asked to sign the Nevada Athletic Commission's forms and was told that Respondent would handle the rest. The Nevada Athletic Commission's Physical Examination Reports require a physical exam, a separate dilated eye examination, and lab tests/serologies. The form specifically requests the attestation of a licensed physician conducting the physical exam as well as an attestation by the ophthalmologist conducting the dilated eye exam.
- 20. The Nevada Athletic Commission physical examination form was completed and Dr. Payne's signature was placed on the form. Dr. Payne denied ever having examined M.L. and denied signing the form or giving anyone else permission to sign the form on his behalf. Forensic handwriting examination subsequently ruled out Dr. Payne as the person signing the form but did state that there were elements to suggest Respondent as the signer. Respondent later admitted to Dr. Payne that Respondent placed Dr. Payne's signature on M.L.'s physical examination form.
- 21. The dilated eye ophthalmological examination form was completed and a signature of Maya Shammas, M.D., a licensed physician in the State of California, was added to the form. On

the dilated eye examination form, Dr. Shammas was erroneously referred to as an osteopathic physician, or D.O. She is, in fact, a specialist in ophthalmology, and a licensed medical doctor, not a doctor of osteopathic medicine. Dr. Shammas denied ever signing the dilated eye examination form, or giving anyone else permission to sign the form on her behalf, and has no record of ever seeing patient M.L. Dr. Shammas denied having any professional arrangement with MVP, Inc. outside of some occasional referrals.

- 22. Respondent did not conduct all of the elements of the physical exam that were documented as completed, and did not conduct the ophthalmologic exam at all. Yet the physical examination and ophthalmologic examinations were documented as completed even though the physicians allegedly signing these forms were not present, did not personally conduct the examinations and did not provide any authorization to have someone else sign the forms on their behalf.
- 23. The completed forms, along with the forged doctors' signatures were sent by Respondent to M.L.'s manager, who forwarded them to the event promotor in Las Vegas, Nevada. Eventually, the forged forms were submitted to the Nevada Athletic Commission. After reviewing the forms and attempting to verify their veracity, the Commission had concerns that the forms contained signature forgeries of the attesting physicians. As a result of the Commission's concerns, M.L.'s professional boxing license was denied and his scheduled boxing event was canceled.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Making a False Document Related to Practice of Medicine)

- 24. As alleged in paragraphs 13 through 23 hereinabove, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2261, because:
- A) Respondent knowingly made or signed a document which falsely represented that patient M.L. was examined by Dr. Payne;
- B) Respondent knowingly made or signed a document which falsely represented that patient M.L. was examined by Dr. Shammas;

| 1 | D) By forging Dr. Shammas's signature on the Nevada Athletic Commission dilated ex | ye | |
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| 2 | examination form for Patient M.L. | | |
| 3 | FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE | | |
| 4 | (Violation of Moscone-Knox Professional Corporations Act) | | |
| 5 | 28. As alleged in paragraphs 13 through 23 hereinabove, Respondent is subject to | | |
| 6 | disciplinary action under Code section 2286 in that Respondent violated the provisions of the | | |
| 7 | Moscone-Knox professional Corporations Act by creating a professional medical corporation in | | |
| 8 | which the majority ownership by a licensed physician was fictitious. | | |
| 9 | SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE | | |
| 10 | (Gross Negligence) | | |
| 11 | 29. As alleged in paragraphs 13 through 23 hereinabove, Respondent is subject to | | |
| 12 | disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (b) in that Respondent was grossly | | |
| 13 | negligent in his care and treatment of patient M.L., because: | | |
| 14 | A) The manner in which Respondent completed the Nevada Athletic Commission | | |
| 15 | physical examination form for Patient M.L. was an extreme departure from the standard of care | | |
| 16 | B) The manner in which Respondent completed the Nevada Athletic Commission | | |
| 17 | ophthalmological examination for patient M.L. was an extreme departure from the standard of | | |
| 18 | care. | | |
| 19 | SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE | | |
| 20 | (Repeated Negligent Acts) | | |
| 21 | 30. As alleged in paragraphs 13 through 23 hereinabove, Respondent is subject to | | |
| 22 | disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (c) in that Respondent committed | | |
| 23 | repeated negligent acts, because: | | |
| 24 | A) The manner in which Respondent completed the Nevada Athletic Commission | | |
| 25 | physical examination form for Patient M.L. was below the applicable standard of care. | | |
| 26 | B) The manner in which Respondent completed the Nevada Athletic Commission | | |
| 27 | ophthalmological examination for patient M.L. was below the applicable standard of care. | | |
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C) Allowing patients and staff to refer to Respondent as "doctor" was below the applicable standard of care.

EIGHTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct)

31. By the virtue of allegations in paragraphs 13 through 23 hereinabove, Respondent is subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Code section 2234, in that Respondent conducted himself in a manner unbecoming a medical professional.

AGGRAVATING FACTOR

(Prior Discipline)

32. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges that effective on January 25, 2010, in Physician Assistant Committee case number 1E-2008-190206, entitled *In the Matter of the Statement of Issues Against Ramon Gonzalez*, Respondent's application for an unrestricted Physician Assistants license was denied. Instead, Respondent was issued a probationary license for seven years with various terms and conditions. Respondent's license was restricted because on July 19, 1999, while employed as an athletic trainer at Rancho Santa Margarita Catholic High School, in Mission Viejo, California, Respondent inappropriately touched an 18-year-old female student-athlete. Under the pretext of performing physical therapy, respondent massaged the student's legs, arms, shoulders, and breasts. After being criminally charged, Respondent completed sex offender counseling, and the charge of sexual battery pending against him at the time was dismissed, and Respondent was convicted of battery in violation of Penal Code section 242 in Orange County Superior Court on or about March 5, 2002. Respondent completed his probationary period with the Board in 2017.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Physician Assistant Board issue a decision:

 Revoking or suspending Physician Assistant License Number PA 20804, issued to Ramon Castellon Gonzalez, PA;

| 1 | 2. Ordering him to pay the | Physician Assistant Board the reasonable costs of the |
|-------|---|--|
| 2 | investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section | |
| 3 | 125.3; | |
| 4 | 3. If placed on probation, o | ordering him to pay reasonable probation monitoring costs; |
| 5 | 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper. | |
| 6 | | |
| 7 | DATED: April 26, 2022 | Rojana Khan |
| 8 | | ROZANA KHAN Executive Officer Physician Agrictant Board |
| 9 | | Physician Assistant Board Department of Consumer Affairs State of California |
| 10 | | Complainant |
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